

the new occupant, Male 3. Still later the 1950 mate of Male 3 returned to, or close to, their old territory; her pairing there was not determined.

Unfaithfulness to territory may have been a factor in two other failures: one male was carried in dead by a cat, at the beginning of a season, at a house about 150 yards from the bird's previous territory; one female, not located until a late nesting, was then about 100 yards from her previous territory. In another case the female returned a few days before her old mate, and possibly was paired before his arrival; it was she who reoccupied the center of the old territory; he shifted a little when he returned. My observations were inadequate to provide explanations of the other two failures.

Kendeigh (*loc. cit.*) concluded that in the House Wren, similarly, "lack of remating is often due to a scattering of birds into other, although nearby, areas, while remating is greatly aided by both birds returning to the same old nesting grounds."—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

A Warning Call of the American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*.—In nesting-time, American Robins of both sexes at times utter a high-pitched yet weak-sounding note that closely resembles that of the Cedar Waxwing—a thin 'see-eeep.' When uttering this note, the Robin remains rigid, often for several minutes. It is an alarm, giving warning of a predatory bird or birds, and is intelligible to birds other than Robins, even to domestic poultry. Bent (U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 196: 36, 1949) lists no such note.

Six years' observation have failed to show us an instance where this call arose from the presence of an animal, such as a cat or a raccoon. A somewhat confusing factor is that Robins assail predatory birds with outcries similar to those with which they scold their earthbound enemies. We therefore believe the function of the call is to alert other birds.

This belief is strengthened by the behavior of an orphaned robin we reared. This month-old bird uttered the alarm while in a room with drawn blinds. The bird, which had been preening its feathers while perched on my finger, remained tense for a couple of minutes despite my efforts to soothe and relax it.

My wife had been outdoors and when she re-entered, I asked her if she had seen a hawk. She replied that she had been trying to see one, but had failed. When I asked her why she had been trying, she said, "Several robins were 'see-eeeping'."

The next day, while at a window, the young bird again uttered the note. Binoculars showed me a small hawk and two larger hawks in a dead tree, 135 yards distant. To my unaided vision they appeared three specks, but glasses identified them as Goshawks, *Accipiter gentilis*, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*. Previously, when 18 days old, this Robin gave the warning faintly, yet recognizably, on seeing a Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*, pass a window.

This young bird supplied the only instances we have had of a juvenile robin uttering this particular alarm note. The call is not chorused as in a general alarm, but is repeated by individuals at scattered points. Not only hawks, but any predatory bird may cause a Robin to utter this alarm. And, though some Robins winter here, we hear it only in nesting-time.—MORRIS JACKSON, R. R. No. 1, Fanny Bay, British Columbia.

Notes on Song Cessation.—When the breeding of a bird population is over, song usually ceases gradually. The first marked decline in the number of daily songs is the beginning of cessation; general cessation marks the end of singing for the